

9-20-07

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the Streamside Setbacks that have been created by the committee.

I have included photographs which show why this is an emergency. People are rapidly building close to the river to get it done before the setbacks become law.

The Bitterroot is a naturally braided river. Whenever someone builds too close to that river, it blocks it from its natural meandering. Following construction of homes close to the river is riprap. The riprap fights the natural channel of the river, eliminating flooding in areas, which is important to the survival of the cottonwoods and thus the habitat of the river bottom. The river will continue to meander, despite our riprap. It will win.

There is no market data that supports the claim that streamside setbacks will de-value property. That is a scare tactic. Before you accept that as truth, please ask for proof. It does not exist. As an appraiser, I have been looking for data to back that claim and have not found it.

On the contrary, a healthy river will maintain property values for everyone. The setbacks are important to the health of the river.

I own property on both the East Fork of the Bitterroot River and Skalkaho Creek. I am willing to comply to these setbacks and I know that allowing the Bitterroot to be a healthy river, without forcing it to change whenever someone wants to build too close and then block its flow, will be nothing but good for my property values.

As many of you have said, the Bitterroot River is very important to our quality of life and to our economy. We need to protect it.

In November, we the people overwhelmingly voted for planning. Again in June, we elected three new commissioners who stand for planning. Adopting these interim streamside setback regulations is step one in moving on with what we have asked you to do. Please do not let the loud crowd that has gathered out of fear to sway you. My guess is that they did not vote for any zoning in the first place. Listen to the majority of the people who voted for planning this past year. Do not let the loudest group suddenly overturn your decisions. We need your leadership on this. It is why we elected you. We want you to act, not to crumble under the weight of the loud special interest groups.

Thank you for setting up this committee and asking them to create these regulations. They did their part. Now I ask you to do yours and accept these regulations.

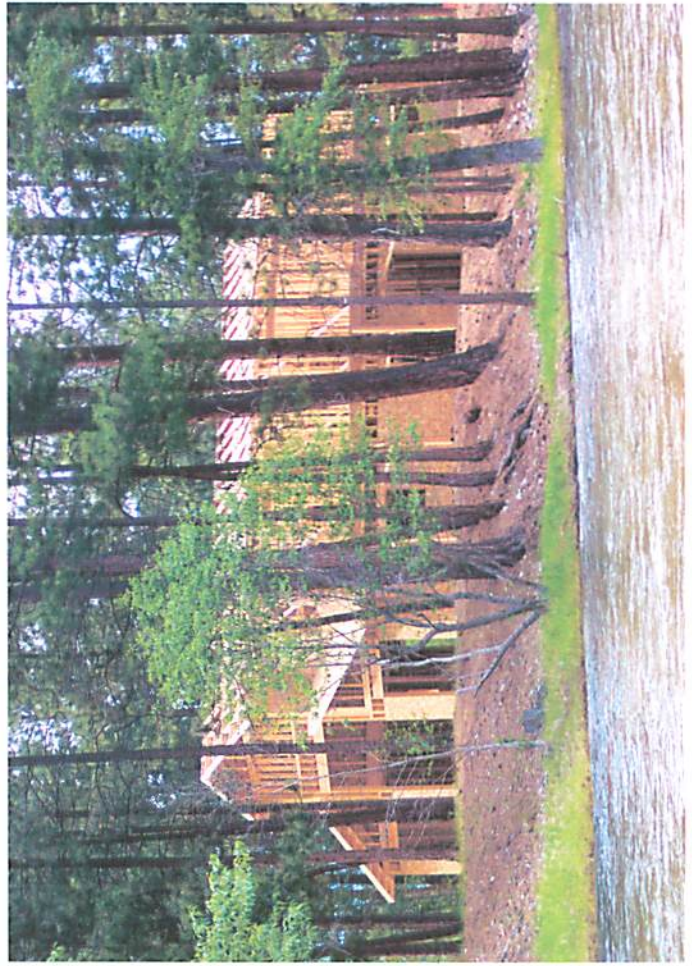
Sincerely yours, Sarah Roubik 961-5212

PO Box 459
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East Fork
Bathurst



Skakulo
Creek
The creek will
touch the
concrete at
high water



Main
Stem
Bathurst
Newby
Dunby

This is what our river does, naturally.

